

A
TRUE RELATION
OF THE
Horrid Conspiracy,
AGAINST THE
LIFE of the KING.

*With an Exact List of the Prisoners Committed to the Tower,
Newgate, Gate-house and the Fleet; upon the Account of
the PLOT.*

In a Letter to a Friend.

SIR,

I Received yours, Dated the 1st of April, at Oxford, and according to your desire, this serves to give you an exact Account of the most Horrid, Barbarous, and Detestable Conspiracy, formed and carried on by Papists, and other Wicked and Traiterous Persons, for Assassinating His Majesty's Royal Person, in order to the Incouragement of an intended Invasion from France; to the utter Ruin and Subversion of the Protestant Religion, and the Laws and Liberties of this Kingdom. It was happily discovered at a time when we little thought of it; so that we may attribute our preservation to the Divine Providence. I find it has been on Foot ever since the business of La Hogue, at which time, if you please to remember, Admiral Russell to his Eternal Glory, obtained a Signal Victory over the French Fleet, Commanded by the Marechal Tourville; making Bonfires of 18 French Men of War, that the Enemy ran a Shore, particularly that of the Royal Sw, of 120 Guns, being the finest Ship that ever was built in France. After the disappointment of this Expedition, their Abominable Contrivance lay for some time, as if it were asleep; but during the Campaign in the Netherlands in (1694) Granvells Conspiracy to Assassi-

nate His Majesty was set on foot, and he was Apprehended and Hang'd; that Villany was chiefly managed by Monsieur Roberti, Secretary to the Seignr Amelot, Ambassador of France, in Switzerland; by the direction of the Marquis de Berbisieux, Son to the Marquis de Louis, that great Minister of State; all their pernicious designs having proved Abortive, there was nothing thought of it until the Winter last was Twelve months, at which time the present Conspirators had several meetings, to contrive, consult, and imagine the Death of His Sacred Majesty, both in January, February, and March; but they could not then agree upon methods to Execute their Bloody Tragedy; so they deferred it till after the Campaign; which being finished, the King returned to England in Triumph, having taken Namur in the sight of the French Army; which consisted of above 100000 Men, well Appointed. In the mean time the Emisaries of France were no ways Idle, and in January they renewed their Consultations and Meetings, to Concert measures, for the Accomplishing their Ends; being supplied with Monies from time to time from France, as also by the Disaffected Party here; and they continued their meetings in February, particularly on the 10th and 15th, at which, and other times it was agreed

agreed to Assassinate the King, either in the narrow Lane near *Richmond*, or in the narrow Lane near *Turnham-Green*; and some of the Party went to view these places; viz. Capt. *Geo. Porter*, Lieutenant *King*, and *Knight*, and highly approved of them as proper places to Execute their Design; by this time Sir *George Barclay*, a Native of *Scotland*, came over from *France* to manage this Affair; and was at several of their meetings, he having a Commission to Command, as a Major General here, for the late King *James*, if they had succeeded; and they had provided 40, or 45 Horses, Blunderbusses, Pistols, &c. to Shoot the King in his Coach, and to Fight his Guards. And at last the Day was appointed for the doing of it, which was Saturday the 22th of February; but in the mean time Monsieur *Dela Rue*, who was one amongst them, and had a great share in the management. Went to *Kensington* on Monday the 17th of February, intending to acquaint Brigadier *Leison* with it, but not meeting with him, he went thither on Tuesday the 18th, and met him, and after some Discourses, Communicated to him the Conspiracy; desiring him to acquaint the King therewith, the Matter being brought now to a head. Brigadier *Leison* immediately signified the same to His Majesty, and on the 19th he notified that he had done it to Monsieur *Dela Rue*; the said *Dela Rue* desired he might not be made use of as an Evidence. On Friday Night the 14th. of February the Conspirators met; but Mr. *Pendergrafe* did not come as soon as they expected, so that they concluded he was gone to betray them; and the Resolution was taken to kill him, either in the Street or his Lodgings; and a certain number of them were appointed to do it; and so they parted, except Captain *Porter* and some others; in the mean time Mr. *Pendergrafe* came in, and the Question being put to him, where he had been? they being used to be very punctual in their Cabals and meetings; he gave such as were there a satisfactory Answer, he having been with a Fair Lady, whom he had met by the way; this excused him to them, and gave them occasion to let him know the Resolutions taken in their Committee, to take away his

Life; which he repented very ill, and some remorse of Conscience, as to the hainousness of the Fact, That he took Coach, and went that very Night to *Kensington*, and acquainted the Earl of *Portland* with what had passed; and his Lordship took Care to Communicate the same early next morning to His Majesty: Who upon these Concurring Informations, thought fit to put off his Journey to *Richmond* for that Day, though all things were made ready for his Reception, and all that Day was spent in Consultations, upon methods to secure these Conspirators; and the Lord *Cutts* was sent for, and his Lordship received His Majesty's Instructions, and with his Guards he secured that Night, and on Sunday morning to the tune of 15 of them.

On Monday the 24th. his Majesty came to the House of Peers, and being seated on the Throne in his Royal Robes, and having sent for the Commons he acquainted them with this important Affair, which was no less than a Design to Assassinate his Royal Person, and to invade the Kingdom at the same time, which he delivered to them in a most gracious Speech, by which he communicated to this great Senate the necessary precautions he had taken for his future security, and safety of the Kingdom; by securing the Conspirators, and in getting ready the Fleet to prevent an Invasion. This News was a great surprize to our Parliament, yet such was their presence of mind, that with an undaunted courage they voted an Address, which was drawn up immediately, wherein they unanimously declared they would defend his Majesty, and support his Government against the late King *James*, and all other his Enemies both at Home and Abroad, &c. His Majesty thanked them for their kind Address, promising them to do all that is in his power for the preservation of this Kingdom, &c. These things struck a mighty Terror to the Hearts of the Conspirators, the King having then Informations of the whole Conspiracy, he issued forth his Royal Proclamation for the Apprehending of 29 Conspirators not then taken, whose names are as followeth, viz. *James*, Duke of *Berwick*, Sir *George Barclay*, Major *Lewick*, Cap-

George Porter, Capt. Stow, Capt. Walbank, Capt. James Courtney, Lieutenant Sherburn, Brice Blair, —Dinant, —Chambers, —Boile, George Higgins, and his 2 Brothers, Sons to Sir Thomas Higgins, —Davis, —Cardel Goodman, —Canburn, —Keyse, —Pendegrass, —Brerly, —Trever, Sir George Maxwell, —Durance, a Fleming, Christopher Knightly, Lieutenant King, —Holmes, Sir Will. Perkins, and —Rackwood, with a Reward of 1000 l. Sterling, for the securing of each of them; which has already so good an Effect, that most of them are taken; so that there is wanting but very few of these barbarous Conspirators. Many of those already secured upon Examination; as it often happens among Men, detested in Barbarous Actions; have melted into large Confessions, either through the horror of their Guilt, or in hopes to merit Pardon: particularly Captain Geo. Porter, Mr. Pendegrass, Mr. Boile, Mr. Sherburn, Mr. Birtram, and others not here mentioned.

The Parliament proceeded in the further Consideration of this Affair, and both Houses agreed upon an Association, which were signed by almost all of the Members; of both Houses; The same was subscribed by the City of London; and the Officers of the Army; and many by the Deputy Lieutenants, Justices of the Peace of several Counties, and by the Magistrates of several Corporations; and in a short time the same will be signed by all the Kingdom in General, except a few Disaffected Persons.

It will be necessary now to tell you somewhat, as to the Preparations which the French made for the Invasion, and support of the Traitors; they began as soon as the last Campaign was over, to fit up their Fleet at Toulon, giving out that they were to repais the *Streights*, under the Command of Monsieur *Chatay Renault* well knowing what number of Men of War Sir Geo. Rook had under his Command at Cadiz; thinking His Majesty would have sent a strong Squadron to reinforce him; which indeed had been gone if the Wind had not continued at *N. S. W.* for several Weeks, which not only de-

tained those men of War bound to *Spain*; but also several others, that were outward bound to *Portugal*, the *Cangries*, the *East and West Indies*; with 5 or 600 Sail of Merchant Ships. In the mean time the French were fitting up their Squadrons, in their Ports in the Ocean to cover the Descent: (*viz.*) *Du Bart* at *Dunkirk*, and *Nesmond* at *Brest*, and about the middle of January last, in a great Council of War held at *Marli*, at which were present the French King, the late King *James*, the *Marfchal de Boufflers*, the *Marquis de Harcourt*, &c. It was resolved the Troops of France should march towards *Calais* and *Dunkirk*, to Embark for *England*; and that the Duke of *Berwick* should pass into *England*, to see how matters stood, and to return immediately; accordingly he was dispatched from *St. Germain's Enlay*, and it was given out at *Paris*, that he was gone Post to *Catolonia*, to appease 2 Battalions of *Irish*, that had mutined. The *Marfchal de Boufflers*, and the *Marquis de Harcourt* went for the *Netherlands*, to dispose of the Troops designed for this Expedition, and on the other hand Transport Ships were ordered from the *West of France* for *Calais* and *Dunkirk*, so the number of 300. And at last all things being ripe as they thought, King *James* came to *Calais* from *St. Germain's*; having taken his leave of the French King, and sent the late Queen to the Nunnery of *Chaillos*; by the way he met the Duke of *Berwick* returning from *England*, who assured him all things were safe, and the People ready to receive him: the same account he gave the King of France at *Versailles*, and as he took his leave of *Lewis* the 14th to follow his Father, he took occasion to tell him, that he hoped to return in 3 Months in the Quality of an Ambassador from his Father, to thank him for all his Civilitys. When the late King came to *Calais*, he found there: 18 Battalions of Foot, and 12 Squadrons of Horse and Dragoons; being the best Troops of France, Commanded by the *Marquis de Harcourt*; and under him by 2 *Marfchals de Camp*, 4 Brigadeers, Intendants, and Commissaries; and the *Marfchal de Boufflers* attended him there; They had on board all manner of Provisions, and other necessaries for such

an attempt; with 20 Mortars, 20 heavy Cannon, and as many Field-pieces, 4 Ships laden with spare Arms, for such as would come in upon his Landing: And all the Men were Embark'd, except 400, in order to Land in the River *T.ames*, thinking to meet with no opposition, when, of a sudden Admiral *Russell*, with the *English* Fleet under his Command, consisting of 60 Sail of Men of War (the *French* having but 32 at *Dunkirk*, and in the *Flemish* Road) appeared on their Coast, which was a great mortification to them so that they were immediately obliged to Disembark their Men, and happy was he that got a Shoar first: The Transport-Ships were crowd'd into the Gut at *Calais*, within the 3 *Wooden* Forts, built there since last Summer; and as for the Men of War, the little ones got into *Dunkirk*, and the others into the *Flemish* Road, where the Guns were thrown over-board, and all their Masts were taken down, yet 2 of them broke their backs, and the rest were much damaged; so that after all these wicked Contrivances, and great Preparations; the whole Expedition proved fruitless, tho' the Court of *France* had the vanity to say it was infallible; and even the Duke of *Orleans*, in a Letter he wrote to the Duke of *Savoy*, he intimates to him, that the King of *France* would be soon Master of *England*. On the *Rhine* they reported that King *James* was gone to be Restored, and the Cardinal *Furbin* at *Rome*, gave out somewhat to this purpose

I shall now proceed to give you an Account of the Tryal of Three of them, viz. Mr. *Robert Charnock*, Mr. *Edward King*, and *Thomas Key*; which came on at the *Old Bailey*, on Wednesday the 11th of *March*, before the Lord Chief Justice *Holt*, the Lord Chief Justice *Toby*, the Lord Chief Baron *Ward*, Mr. Justice *Powell*, Mr. Justice *Nevill*, and Mr. Justice *Rookby*: There were above 100 Jurors returned, 33 of which they Challenged; they desired Counsel might be allowed them, Mr. *Charnock* being their Spokes-man, alledging the same ought to be allowed them by virtue of the Act, for regulating Tryals in Cases of High Treason; but the Court told them, That the said Act

did not Commence till the 25th of *March*, and therefore they could not grant them Counsel. The Indictment was read, setting forth that they with others designed to take away the Life of His Majesty, by Assassinating him, and by subverting the Government, &c. The King's Counsel opened the Indictment, being Mr. Attorney, and Solicitor Generals, Mr. *Conyers*, Mr. *Montague* and Mr. *Cooper*. The Evidence were, 1st. Captain *George Porter*, 2dly, Monsieur *Dela Rue*, 3dly, Mr. *Pendergale*, 4thly, Mr. *Bertram*, 5thly, Mr. *Boile*, and 6thly, Mr. *Sherburne*, the latter did not then give Evidence. Captain *Porter* gave Evidence against them all Three, viz. That they had several meetings, to concert measures relating to the Conspiracy, particularly at the *Globe Tavern* in *Hatton-Garden*, at the *Naggs-Head* in *Covent-Garden*, at the *Sun* in the *Strand*, at the *Blow-Puffs* in *Old Spring-Garden*, at a House in *Pica-dilly*, at *Porter's* Lodgings, and several other places; and that Mr. *Charnock* had brought him acquainted with Sir *George Barclay*, the other Evidence Corroborated what he said; and that *Keys* had been imployed in buying Horses, to be used in this Enterprize; and that they used at their Consultations to take an Orange, and to squeeze it, and Drink a Health to the squeezing of the Rotten Orange; and *Charnock* said, When we have taken the Little spark off, King *James* will be soon here; that it was at first propos'd to carry the King alive to *France*, and to hire a Ship for that purpose, but that was looked upon Impracticable; and therefore the places appointed were in the Lane, near *Richmond*, or in the Lane near *Turnham-Green*; which places *Porter* and *King*, as I have told you before, approved of; the days of their meeting, and the manner of the discovery were fully proved, and that Sir *George Barclay* had come over from *France*, with a Commission from the late King upon this Exploit: The Prisoners had little to say against the Witnesses, neither could they deny the Fact; but Mr. *Charnock* said he had not bought neither Horses nor Arms, and consequently Words did not come within the *Overt-Act*, Citing several Statutes, alledging it could

not be Treason; his defence lasted about an-hour. I ought to have first said that they all Three pleaded Not Guilty; but having no more to say for themselves, the Lord Chief Justice summed up the Evidence, and directed the Gentlemen of the Jury if they believed the Evidence, to find them Guilty, and the Jury withdrew for the space of a quarter of an Hour, at which time they returned, having agreed upon their Verdict; and being asked whether they were Guilty or not, Mr. *Harwar* the Foreman said Guilty, upon which they were remanded to *Newgate*, and the Court Adjourned till 6 that Evening, at which time they were brought down to the Court, and being asked what they had to say in their own behalf, why Sentence of Death should not pass against them, and having nothing of moment to offer, Mr. *Crisp* the Common Serjeant pronounced Sentence of Death against them all Three, as in Cases of High Treason.

If they had succeeded in their intended Villany, they were to seize the *Exchequer*, as also the *Tower*, and our Magazines, and by that means to furnish themselves with all necessities; and some do believe that they would have set the City on Fire.

Mr. *Charnock*, King, and *Keys*, were Executed according to the Sentence, on *Wednesday* the 18th of *March* at *Tyburn*; Mr. *Charnock* owned in a Paper which he delivered the Sheriffs, that King *James* intended an Invasion upon *England*, and says he, to the Facilitating of which, I own that my self and some others did agree to attack the Prince of *Orange* and his Guards; but as for any Order or Commission from King *James*, to Assassinate His present Majesty, he denies it, and withal seems in an Equivocating way to hint, if we may believe him, the late King had rejected such Proposals when they were made him; he Confessed that he heard of a Commission arrived for Levying of War, but had not seen it; he clears the body of the *Roman* Catholics, from having any knowledge of this Detestable Design. King said that he never saw any Order or Com-

mission from King *James* for promoting the Assassination, and that the Assassination was not undertaken with any general Knowledge of any body of Men, either Catholic or Protestant; and that he did not ingage in this Villany on presumption of any King killing Principles that could justify such an undertaking; but that he was drawn into it by his own Rashness and Passion. *Keys* said but little. Since their Execution, their Quarters have been set up, on the Gates of this City.

On *Monday* the 23d. of *March* came on the Tryal of Sir *John Friend* at the *Old Bailey*, the Evidence Swore that Sir *John* had received a Commission from King *James*, to raise a Regiment of Horse, that he had been at the several meetings of the Party, were it was agreed, to assist King *James* in the Invasion; but he seemed to decline the Assassination, he was found Guilty of High Treason. The next day being *Tuesday*, the 24th. of *March*, the Tryal of Sir *William Perkins* came on there; the Principal Evidence against him were, Captain *Porter*, and one Mr. *Sweeten*, these were several other Circumstantial Evidences; *Porter* proved that he was concerned in the Assassination, and *Sweeten* as to the Levying of War; so that he was found Guilty also; and that very Evening they both received Sentence of Death, as in Cases of High Treason, and since the Warrant was signed for their Execution on *Wednesday* last; but on *Tuesday* Night they received a Reprieve for 3 Days.

On *Friday* the 3d Instant, Sir *William Perkins* and Sir *John Friend* were brought out of *Newgate*, they shook one another by the Hands in the *Press-Yard*, and said, 'We shall shortly be in a Glorious state. They were conveyed in a Sledge to *Tyburn*; And were Assisted by Three Non-Jurant Ministers, viz. Mr. *Snell*, Mr. *Cook*, and Mr. *Gallier*; having declined any Assistance from the Divines that are in the Interest of this Government. Sir *William* Confessed, That he was to have a Share in the Assassination. That he had undertaken to raise a Troop

of Horſe; and that he had ſeen a Com-
miſſion from King *James*, to Levy
War; yet he was averſed to diſcover
 thoſe that were concerned with him.
Sir *John* owned he heard of the Aſſaſ-
ſination, but abhorred it: He denied
not the intended Invaſion; but ſaid,
That he was to have raiſed Two Hun-
dred Horſe; they both owned that what
was Sworn againſt them was true, that
Charnock had been in *France*, to procure
Eight Thouſand Foot, and Two Thou-
ſand Horſe; and that they were to
Join them with Three or Four Thouſ-

and Horſe upon their Landing, and
they ſaid, They thought King *James*
wronged, and that it was their Duty to
help him, they looked upon what they
did Meritorious, and Expreſſed great
Aſſurance of Happineſs in the World to
come. They Prayed a conſiderable
time with the above ſaid Three Miniſters,
who juſt before the Cart drove away
laid their Three Hands upon the Heads
of the Priſoners, and abſolved them.
After which they were Hanged and
Quartered, as in Caſes of High Treason.

IN *Stow's Chronicle*, p. 174. in the life
of King *John*, printed in the year 1631.
you will find it thus printed: About
this time it chanced that the Viſcount of
Melina, a Nobleman of *France*, which
came with *Lewis* into *England*, lay very
ſick in the City of *London*, who when he
found that death approached, called to
him certain of the Barons of *England*, un-
to whom he declared in effect as follow-
eth: I am ſorry, Brethren, for your Sub-
verſion and Deſolation, whereof you
know nothing: For *Lewis*, and 16 of the
Earls and Barons with him have ſworn,
That if it be his chance to ſubdue *Eug-
land*, and to be Crowned King, he would
banish out of the Realm for ever all thoſe
which now do take his part, and proſe-
cute King *John*, as Traytors to their King,
and will root all their Kindred out of
the Earth; and to the end you ſhall not
doubt hereof to be true, I which now lie

here a dying, under peril of my Soul af-
firm this to be true, and that I was one
that did ſwear the ſame with *Lewis*. Now
therefore from henceforth provide for
your own Commodity and Profit, and
keep this ſecret which I have told you,
and when he had thus ſaid, he died. The
Barons perceiving what danger they
were in by *Lewis*, who had given to the
French men the Lands and Cattles which
pertained to the Barons, and when any
murmured againſt *Lewis*, he caſt in their
teeth that they were Traytors, &c. they
believed what the Nobleman had told
them. This did alſo very much increaſe
their heavineſs, that they were every day
Excommunicated, and deprived of all
earthly Honour, ſo that they were in
great anguiſh both of Body and Soul;
whereof many deviſed how to return in-
to the Allegiance of King *John*. The
Chronicle may be ſeen at the Publiſhers.

In the TOWER.

EARL of *Aylsbury*,
Lord *Brudenall*,
Lord *Reſs*,
Bernard Howard, Eſq;

Dr. *Lake*,
Mr. *Buckley*,
Colonel *Clifford*,
Mr. *Bellaſſis*,

In

(7)
IN NEWGATE.

EARL of Castlemain,
 William Walbanck,

Tho. Bartram,
 Robert Ferguson,
 Nicholas Nolan,
 Zachariah Sinko,
 George Higgins,
 John Seagravi,
 Christopher Knightly,
 Mr. Davis,
 Lieutenant Sherburn,

David Lothropi,
 Edward White,
 William Mason,
 John Gerling,
 Bevil Higgins,
 Thomas Higgins,
 Henry Fitzpatrick,
 Edmund Lee,

Tho. Horne, was committed for High
 Treason, in concealing and har-
 bouring Major Lowick in his house.

John Veal alias Vieme,
 Rister Collingwood,

Thomas Combs,
 George Porter,
 William Boyce,
 Thomas Pendergrass,
 Christopher Davis,
 Sir Roger Le' Strange,
 Nicholas Wilfen,
 Cardel Goodman,
 Charles Edwards,
 Captain William Stow,
 Thomas Trevor,
 James Enbanck,
 — Hungat,
 — Bernardi,
 — Rookwood,
 Charles Cranburne,
 Major Lowick,
 Roter. Cassels,
 Sir John Knight,
 Robert Meldrum,
 — Blackburne,
 — Chambers,

Executed out of NEWGATE.

Robert Charnock,
 Thomas Keys, alias Crabb,
 Edward King,

Sir William Perkins,
 Sir John Friend,

In the GATE-HOUSE.

DR. Monroe,
 Dr. Mackintosh,
 Captain Loutham,
 Mr. Lewis, Gentleman of the Horse
 to the Earl of Faversham.
 Captain Birms,
 Captain Billingham,
 Mr. Poney,
 Collonel John Hales,
 Esquire Elliot,
 Esquire Biggs,
 Mr. Graham,
 Esquire Scroop,
 Captain Adams,

Mr. Huit,
 Mr. Wray,
 Captain Brian,
 Mr. Lashly,
 Mr. Plunket,
 Captain Blair,
 Captain Evans,
 Mr. Mayor,
 Mr. Cudrow,
 Pa. Paire,
 Captain Richardsen,
 Mr. Birkenhead,
 Mr. Dale Close,
 Mr. Bateman,

John Redmain, a Printer,
Captain William Courtney,
Ensign Tooley,
Captain Henry Courtney,
Captain James Courtney,
Paul Robinson,

Mr. Memoraysey Spie.
Captain Ridly,
Mr. Mathews, a Priest.
Another Mr. Mathews, a suspected
Priest.
Mr. Ramsey,

In the FLEET.

THE Honourable Collonel
Tufson,
The Honourable Mr. Constable,
Sir Richard White,
Sir Richard Hart,
Collonel Graham, Privy Purse to
the late King.

Collonel Dungan,
Captain Rider,
Captain Richardson,
Captain Murray,
Mr. Baron a Minister.
Mr. Meeting, *Mission of Melton Mon.*

BESIDES this List which I have inserted here, there are a great number of Gentlemen and others, in the Custody of Messengers; and there is hardly a

Gaol in England, but what has more or less in them; When any thing else occurs, you shall be sure to hear from

Your Servant to Command, &c.

Sold by E. Whitlock near Stationers-Hall, 1696.

